

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original) A method for processing aggregate print jobs comprising
receiving an aggregate print job to be printed in a print run quantity, the aggregate print job containing individual print jobs arranged in a two-dimensional layout having a plurality of individual print jobs from different customers positioned in each of its two dimensions, and

printing the aggregate print job on a substrate, the substrate being of a sufficiently large size to accommodate the simultaneous printing of all individual print jobs in the aggregate print job.

Claim 2 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein the aggregate print job is received electronically.

Claim 3 (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising cutting the substrate after printing to separate the individual print jobs.

Claim 4 (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising
repetitively printing the aggregate print job on the substrate until the print run quantity of the aggregate print job has been printed,
assembling the printed substrate into a stack, and
cutting the stack to separate the individual print jobs.

Claim 5 (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising packaging and shipping the individual print jobs.

Claim 6 (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the substrate is paper.

Claim 7 (original). The method of claim 6 wherein the paper comprises rolls of paper.

Claim 8 (original) The method of claim 6 wherein the paper comprises cut sheets of paper.

Claim 9 (new) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving an aggregate meta file associated with the aggregate print job.

Claim 10 (new) The method of claim 9 wherein the aggregate meta file contains at least the print run quantity to be printed of the aggregate print job.

Claim 11 (new) The method of claim 9 wherein the aggregate meta file contains at least an aggregate print job batch number.

Claim 12 (new). The method of claim 9 wherein the aggregate meta file contains at least an identifier of an aggregation template to be used with the aggregate print job.

Claim 13 (new) The method of claim 9 wherein the aggregate meta file contains at least individual customer information files associated with the individual print jobs in the aggregate print job.

Claim 14 (new) The method of claim 13 wherein the individual customer information files in the aggregate meta file contain at least the shipping addresses for the individual print jobs.

Claim 15 (new) The method of claim 14 further comprising printing shipping labels for individual print jobs based on at least shipping address information from the aggregate meta file.

Claim 16 (new) The method of claim 13 wherein the individual customer information files contain delivery date information for the individual print jobs.

Claim 17 (new) The method of claim 16 further comprising selecting one or more shipping carriers for delivery of individual print jobs based on at least delivery date information from the aggregate meta file.

Claim 18 (new) The method of claim 13 wherein the individual customer information files contain information identifying whether an individual print job is related to one or more other individual print jobs.

Claim 19 (new) The method of claim 18 further comprising combining multiple related individual print jobs into a single shipment.

Claim 20 (new) The method of claim 4 further comprising receiving an aggregate meta file associated with the aggregate print job, the aggregate meta file containing at least an identifier of the cutting program to be used to control the operation of an automated cutter during the step of cutting.

Claim 21 (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the location receiving the aggregate print job had previously requested to receive the aggregate print job.

Claim 22 (new) The method of claim 9 further comprising requesting delivery of the aggregate meta file.

Claim 23 (new) The method of claim 9 further comprising reviewing at least some of the aggregate meta file information prior to receiving the aggregate print job.

Claim 24 (new) The method of claim 23 further comprising requesting to receive the aggregate print job based on at least the aggregation meta file information.

Claim 25 (new) The method of claim 23 further comprising submitting a bid for the aggregate print job prior to receiving the aggregate print job.

Claim 26 (new) The method of claim 25 wherein the aggregate print job is received in response to an accepted bid for the aggregate print job.

Claim 27 (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the aggregate print job is received based on at least the availability at the receiving location of the printing equipment required to print the aggregate print job.

Claim 28 (new) The method of claim 27 wherein the aggregate print job is received further based on at least the delivery time of one or more individual print jobs in the aggregate print job and on the availability of printing capacity at the receiving location to print the aggregate print job in advance of the delivery time

Claim 29 (new) The method of claim 28 further comprising making at least information about the availability of printing equipment at the receiving location available for review by one or more parties responsible for selecting a location to receive the aggregate print job.

Claim 30 (new) The method of claim 9 wherein at least a portion of the aggregate meta data is displayed on at least one terminal to at least one operator at the printing facility where the aggregate print job is being printed.

Claim 31 (new) The method of claim 30 further comprising displaying to one or more printing press operators at least aggregate print job production information from the aggregate meta data.

Claim 32 (new) The method of claim 30 further comprising displaying to one or more operators at least an identifier from the aggregate meta data of an aggregation template to be added to the aggregate print job.

Claim 33 (new) The method of claim 30 further comprising displaying to one or more operators individual print job packaging instructions from the aggregate meta data.

Claim 34 (new) The method of claim 1 further comprising sending at least one meta file to the sender of the aggregate print job notifying the sender of the status of the aggregate print job.

Claim 35 (new) The method of claim 34 wherein at least one meta file sent to the sender comprises a notification that the aggregate print job has been printed.

Claim 36 (new) The method of claim 34 wherein at least one meta file sent to the sender comprises a notification that one or more individual print jobs have been shipped.

Claim 37 (new) The method of claim 4 wherein the individual print jobs in the received aggregate print job are arranged in one of a plurality of predetermined arrangements.

Claim 38 (new) The method of claim 37 wherein the cutting step is performed by an automated cutter controlled by a cutting program associated with the arrangement of individual print jobs in the aggregate print job.

Claim 39 (new) The method of claim 37 further comprising placing an aggregation template on the stack prior to cutting, the aggregation template corresponding to the arrangement of individual print jobs in the aggregate print job.

Claim 40 (new) The method of claim 39 wherein the aggregation template has information printed thereon to facilitate identification of individual print jobs after they have been separated.

Claim 41 (new) The method of claim 1 further comprising processing the received aggregate print job to create color-separated printing plates suitable for printing the aggregate print job on an offset printing press.